

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/525,501

Examiner

John K. Fristoe Jr.

Applicant(s)

TOMIOKA ET AL.

Art Unit

3753

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 9/26/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/23/2005</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                    | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement filed 2/23/2005 is acknowledged by the examiner. However, since no copies of the foreign references were provided by the Applicants, the examiner has marked through them and they will not be considered. Please note that the 905 does not indicate that the foreign references were supplied.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: U.S. pat. No. 6,755,388 (Furukawa et al.) disclose a pinch valve comprising a main body (102), a groove (within element 102), an elastic tube body (109), a cylinder body (101), a handle support portion having a female thread position (118), a through hole (surrounds element 120 in figure 15), an air port (116), a cylinder portion (131), a piston (107), a connecting portion (120), a pressing piece (108), a cylindrical handle (103) having a male thread (114), a piston pusher (105), and a spring (106) but lacks a hollow stem having a male thread that cooperates with the female thread of the handle as well as the cylindrical handle having a female thread.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,823,509 (Daniels) discloses a valve having a screw actuated adjustment means.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,895,341 (Brown et al.) discloses a piston operated pinch valve.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,350,053 (Schmitz) discloses a piston operated pinch valve.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,536,738 (Inoue et al.) discloses a piston operated pinch valve.

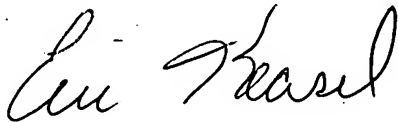
U.S. Pat. No. 4,899,783 (Yusko, Jr. et al.) discloses a piston operated pinch valve.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John K. Fristoe Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-4926. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric S. Keasel can be reached on (571) 272-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

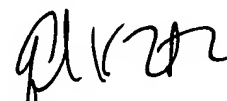
Art Unit: 3753

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ERIC KEASEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

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John K. Fristoe Jr.  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3753